

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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Developments in the Soviet Party Congress

Following P. G. Moscatov's report of the Central Auditing Commission, the Congress concluded the Monday session with a discussion on both the Malenkov and Moscatov speeches. V. V. Grishin, Second Secretary of the Moscow Oblast Party Committee admitted the shortcomings of the Moscow Party organization as outlined by Malenkov, and pledged corrective measures. L. G. Melnikov, Party boss of the Ukraine, extolled the Ukrainian peoples for their valiant defense of their homeland and their successes in rebuilding the Ukrainian economy. He then listed industry, agriculture, social conditions and education as surpassing pre-war levels and promised an early fulfillment of the fifth five year plan. M. D. Bagirov of the Azerbaijan SSR criticized the Union Soviet Writers, The Literary Gazette, and the magazine Questions of History and emphasized the importance of learning the Russian language.

Elaborating on the theme of American imperialism, A. M. Snochkus, First Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party, attacked a recent speech of General Eisenhower which discussed helping the people of the Baltic States to regain their freedom. Rising to the defense, Snochkus declared that "in vain barks imperialist Eisenhower in the hope of subjugating Lithuania."

Another speaker, A. P. Yefimov, First Party Secretary of the Khabarovsk Krai, located near the Soviet-Korean frontier, told the delegates that the people of the Far East constantly remember that American imperialists, greedy for world domination, are in the neighborhood of the Soviet homeland.

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Discussion of the reports was continued at the morning session on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Politburo member N. A. Bulganin. The first speaker, I. G. Kebin, First Secretary of the Estonian Communist Party reported on the great gains realized in that Republic since joining the Union in 1940, with particular emphasis placed on the growth of the economy due to Stalin's continuing interest in the mechanization of agriculture.

The chairman then called upon Politburo member L. P. Beria to speak. Excerpts from this speech reveal that Beria concentrated on the two major developments that had transpired since the last Party Congress. First, the victory of the Soviet Union in World War II has shown the whole world that the strength and might of the socialist state are invincible. However, the American imperialists have failed to learn this lesson, and "are again pushing the peoples into the abyss of a world war", even though such a war would only speed their collapse and disaster. The second major development centered around the new powerful upsurge of the Soviet economy, and especially the progress brought to the industry of the Soviet Republics in Central Asia in comparison to that of their backward neighbors, Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan.

Beria concluded by paying tribute to the Great Russian people as the leading force in the Soviet Union.

A speech by N. V. Kiselev, Party Secretary of the Rostov Oblast, analyzed the shortcomings and mistakes of the work of Party, local government, and economic organizations of the oblast. Particularly criticized was the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Agriculture in regard to the construction of irrigation systems. A. I. Niyazov, Party Secretary from the Uzbek SSR also listed deficiencies in the Ministry of Agriculture as well as in the Ministry of Cotton Growing.

Minister of War A. M. Vasilevsky stressed in his speech that the peace policy of the USSR should not be misunderstood to indicate that the Soviet Union is militarily weak, but on the contrary, the Soviet Army is fully prepared to defend the motherland.

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Other speakers recounted the production and cultural successes of their regions, after directing criticism towards various ministries and organizations for shortcomings. A. E. Korniechuk of the Ukraine, for example, called for an irreconcilable attitude toward the slightest manifestation of bourgeois nationalism and criticized Soviet writers for not doing their part in exposing ideological aberrations.

Comment: It is customary to have Politburo members and secretaries of various Republics and important oblasts "discuss" the reports given at the party congresses. These planned comments on important sections of Malenkov's speech are intended to emphasize the unity of the Soviet peoples and to underline the theme which the 19th Congress is developing --- the great strides made in the Socialist world which is building for peace as contrasted with the deepening crisis of the capitalist world under US aggressive policies.

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